

10/633,014 - Examiner Tod Van Roy

Claim 22 was indicated as allowable in the 3/28/2006 Office Action as dependent from claim 20.

Propose to amend independent claim 20 with the novel features of claim 22, where the narrowband reflector is in a "PM medium".

Would suggest,

20. (Currently Amended) A Q-switched laser, comprising:

a resonant cavity including a narrowband reflector in a polarization maintaining (PM) medium creating a pair of reflection bands that correspond to different polarization modes ~~having a polarization dependent reflection band centered at a laser wavelength~~, a gain medium and a broadband reflector having a reflection band that ordinarily overlaps one of the narrowband reflector's reflection bands ~~the polarization dependent reflection band~~ so that the cavity has a high Q-factor at ~~the~~ a laser wavelength and polarization;

a pump source that couples energy into the resonant cavity to pump the gain medium; and

a modulator that affects the polarization of light oscillating in the resonant cavity to reduce the Q-factor to store energy in the gain medium and then return the Q-factor to its high value to release the energy in a laser pulse.

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Regards,

Eric Gifford

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